

NOTES

*As given to
Mr Hillman
7 March 1960*

(1) Maintenance of Western position in Berlin is essential to the position of the Free World in Central Europe.

Answer to me
(2) The Berlin blockade, ~~policy~~ adopted in 1948, stressed the U. S. positional leadership in willingness to defend our rights in Berlin, stemming from Potsdam Conference and other arrangements.

(3) Any retreat in Berlin would be interpreted as abandonment of our position for peaceful evolution to freedom of the Eastern European satellites and slave nations. It would be interpreted in the world as a general retreat in our attitude toward aggressive Communism with disastrous effects in our world-wide struggle against Communism.

(4) It is vitally important that the Soviet Union and Communists everywhere understand the unity and determination of the American people in following through on a policy initiated by President Truman and carried forward by President Eisenhower.

(5) Despite the other issues being raised in a political year, Berlin is not a political issue *in the USA*. It is a national issue of vital importance to America and the entire Free World.

(6) The USSR should understand that the U. S. is neither weak ~~or~~ *not* undetermined in meeting aggression against Berlin. Furthermore

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Soviet aggression here would risk involving;

the end of conversations to explore the possibilities of the
limitations of armaments;

the end of cultural and other exchanges between the U.S. and
USSR with the view to ~~(relaxing tensions and)~~ bringing about a gradual
evolution *in the USSR*

the backing away from any significant steps toward trade
relaxation;

an even more accelerated military buildup;

possibly measures of retaliation on a world-wide scale if the
USSR repudiated its Berlin Agreements, with untold consequences,
for peaceful evolution.